THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) After reviewing the situation in Punjab, the Government had drawn up an Action Plan containing measures aimed at:

(i) Cutting-down the help received by terrorists from abroad;

(2) Improving the efficiency of the Police and Para-Military Forces in Punjab; and

(3) Political mobilisation and involvement of the people in the fight against terrorism.

These included:

(a) erection of barbed wire-fence along the vulnerable stretches of the border, flood-lighting, erection of wire-obstacles, improving, of jeep-track along the border, construction of more observation towers and introduction of sophisticated equipments to detect and check intruders.

(b) Revamping and strengthening of intelligence gathering machinery in Punjab and appointment of an IGP (Intelligence) for the purpose.

(c) Effective anti-smuggling measures and appointment of an officer of the rank of IGP, with special responsibility for operations against smugglers and border crossers, effective action under NSA/COFEPOSA against mafia type chiefs the smugglers and operations against Hawala operators and recipients of foreign exchange, who have been a source of finance from abroad to the terrorists in Punjab.

(d) Re-organisation and improvement of the Police Administration in the border districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur by creating additional Police districts each under the charge of an SSP with specific tasks allotted to each of them.

(e) Setting up of Village Protection Force pickets, supported by suitable 'strike-force' in the villages in the effected districts, induction of ex-servicemen and the Home-Guards and also motivating the villagers to join these pickets. Necessary training and weapons are also being provided to them.

(f) Setting up of a mechinery for redressal of public grievances with specific responsibility assigned at each level and with an APEX body at the State level to monitor the redressal of public grievances.

(g) Setting up of Gram Aman and Vikas Sabhas in the Villages.

(h) Steps have also been taken to improve the contents of publicity programmes mounted by the Doordarshan with more thrust on Punjab's culture and Sikh histroy etc. and for explaining the policy and decisions of the Government to the people of Punjab and to disseminate correct information about the events in Punjab.

PLAN FOR JAMMU & KASHMIR

In the wake of distrubances in the later part of 1988, discussions were held with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and an action plan was prepared. *Inter alia* it seeks to tighten security and law and order matters, strengthen the administrative set-up and to launch necessary propaganda against the fundamentalist elements and their activities. It is primarily for the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to take action on it. It is, however, hoped that with increased vigilance and public cooperation the situation would be effectively contained.

Working group for economic development of Assam

@*414(A). SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a single-member Working Group for drawing up plans for economic development of Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

@Previously Starred Question 375, transferred from the 28th March, 1989.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A Technical Working Group consisting of a single member viz. Secretary Planning Commission was set up to go into the suggestions submitted by All Assam Students Union/State Government of Assam in pursuance of clause 7 of the Assam Accord.

(b) The recommendations of the Technical Working Group were considered and as a result following projects|schemes were indentified for expeditious action:—

(i) Rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra river at Jogighopa.

(ii) Gas utilisation, gas pipe-line and gas thermal project including the one at Kathalguri.

(iii) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)

(iv) Improvement and modernisation of selected specialities in medical and health institutions.

(v) Reactivation of the Brahmaputra Flood Control Board and its flood control activity.

Seizure of hashish near Gorakhpur

*415. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 230 Kgs. of hashish worth Rs. 58 lakhs was seized by the Zonal Unit of the Narcotics Control Bureau near Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh as reported in The Hindustan Times of the 21st Fabruary, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this connection;

(d) whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the matter and if so, with what results; and

(e) what is the number of cases pertaining to smuggling of narcotics which have come to light during the last two years and the steps being taken by Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The officers of Varanasi Zonal Unit of the Narcotics Control Bureau, working on an intelligence developed and processed over a period of time, had seized 230 kgs. of Nepalese hashish (Charas) from under a culvert near Ghewari village in Gorakhpur district of U.P. on 20.2.1989. The seized charas was in the shape of video casettes and casette shaped bags each weighing 1 kg., further wrapped in polythene paper. The contraband was smuggled by an Indian party from Nepal and was to be shifted from the place of storage under the culvert when the same was seized. A jeep was seen arriving at the spot but sensing danger, sped away, without coming near the storage point. No arrests have been made in this connection. Efforts are on for expediting the investigation.

No precise value of the drug seized can be furnished as this is dependent upon various factors like purity, place of origin, local demand and supply, etc.

The total number of seizure cases booked during 1987, 1988, 1989 (upto February) by various enforcement agencies all over the country are as under:—

Years	No. of cases booked
1987	1,829
1988	1,770
1989 (February) . . .	127

Government have launched various aggressive counter-measures which, *inter alia*, include provision of deterrent punishments against drug traffickers, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially in and around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, strengthening of bilateral cooperation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under